

LGBTBE® Certification FAQs

What is LGBTBE® Certification?

LGBTBE® Certification is a national third-party verification issued by the National LGBTQ+ & Allied Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) confirming that a business is at least 51% LGBTQ+-owned, operated, and controlled.

Is certification local or national?

Certification is national through NGLCC.
Membership is local through the Greater Houston LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce.

Together, they give you national recognition and regional connection.

How much does certification cost?

Standard Fees:

- \$899 Application Fee
- \$499 Recertification Fee

Chamber Members:

Both fees are waived through our Affiliate partnership with NGLCC — making membership a strategic investment before you apply.

Do I have to be a Chamber member?

No — but becoming a member:

- Waives your certification and recertification fees
- Connects you to Houston-based procurement opportunities
- Gives you access to THRIVE, Matchmakers, Roundtables, and more

Most businesses find membership + certification is the strongest strategy.

How long does the certification process take?

The timeline varies depending on documentation readiness, but generally:

- Complete application submission
 - Site visit with an NGLCC-trained reviewer
 - National Certification Committee review
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What documents are required?

You will need:

- Proof of 51% LGBTQ+ ownership
- Legal formation documents
- Business tax documentation
- LGBTQ+ status qualifiers

 [View the full Supporting Document Checklist](#)

What is an LGBTQ+ status qualifier?

NGLCC requires documentation verifying LGBTQ+ ownership. This may include:

- Letter from an Affiliate Chamber (we can assist)
- Marriage/domestic partnership documentation
- Letters of reference
- Other qualifying documentation

👉 [View the full Supporting Document Checklist](#)

What happens after I'm certified?

As a Certified LGBTBE®, you gain access to:

- 450+ corporate and government partners through the NGLCC
- NGLCC matchmaking events
- Supplier inclusion opportunities
- Regional Chamber Impact Partner connections
- Local and national visibility

Certification opens doors — we help you walk through them.

Does the City of Houston recognize LGBTBE® Certification?

Yes. Through Executive Order 1-70, signed in 2020 by former Mayor Sylvester Turner, Houston [became the first city in Texas](#) to formally recognize LGBTQ+-owned businesses in procurement.

Certified businesses may leverage this recognition when pursuing City opportunities.

👉 [Watch the historic signing ceremony.](#)

Who can help me through the process?

The NGLCC Supplier Inclusion Team can assist with application-specific questions and can be reached at supplierinclusion@nglcc.org.

Our team at the Greater Houston LGBTQ+ Chamber is here to:

- Connect you with the NGLCC team
- Perform your local site visit
- Help you maximize certification once approved

✉ [Contact us](#) to get started with [Chamber membership](#) before you start your LGBTBE® certification application so you qualify for the certification fee waiver.